



By the King.

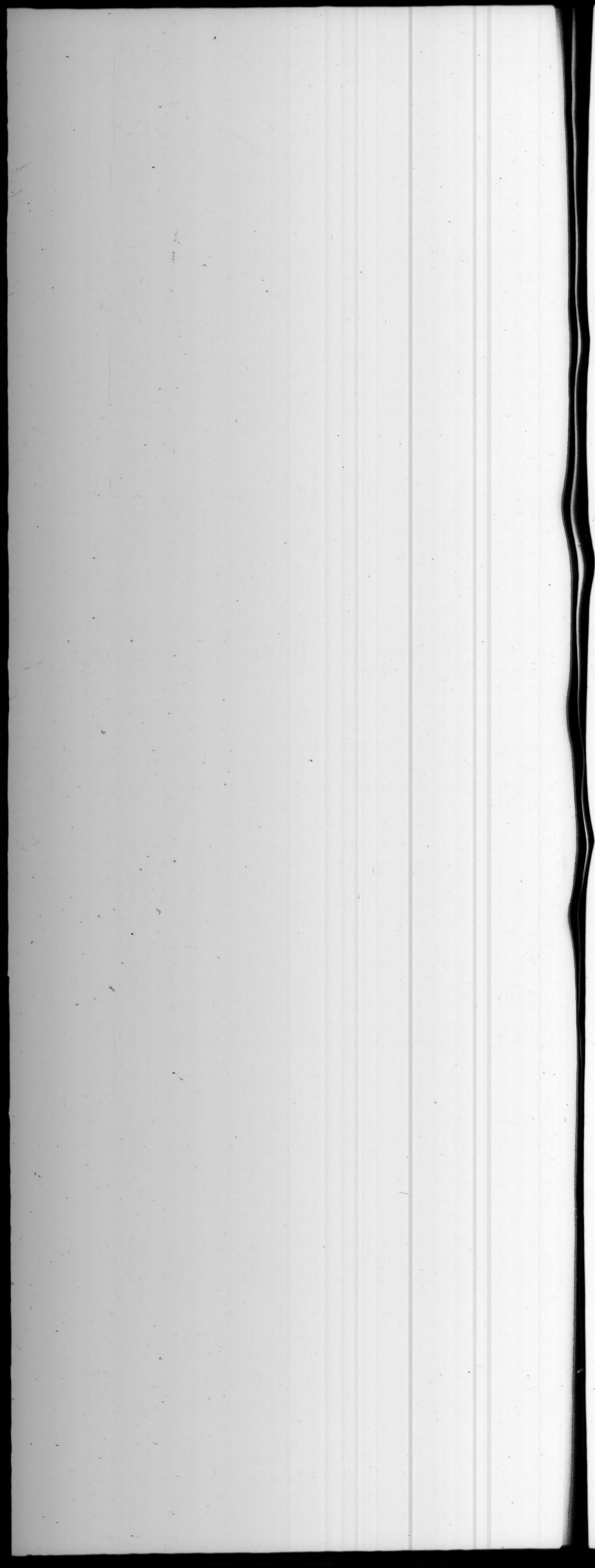
A Proclamation for the better making of  
Saltpeter within this Kingdome.



Orasmuch as the making of Saltpeter and Gunpowder, within Our owne Realmes and Dominions, is a great safety and benefite to Us and Our Subiects, assuring Us of a certaine and sufficient provision thereof for Our and their defence, Whereas the providing thereof from forraime parts, cannot but bee full of difficulty and danger, depending vpon the pleasure of other Princes and States, and when Our necessitie shall most require the same, Wee shall be sure to purchase so pretious a Commoditie, at vncreasonable Rates, and bee inforced to pay ready Moneys, to be transported from hence, for the same, to the diminution of the Treasure of Our Realmes: And if none of these inconueniences should happen, yet the bringing thereof by Sea, from forraime parts, is full of perill and hazzard, being subiect to the many casualties of vsinde and weather, the dangers of Shipwracke, and the interception of Pirates and enemies, and these may happen in times of our greatest necessitie and Want thereof.

And whereas the practise and making of Saltpeter heretofore within this Kingdome, Was, and is such, as tendeth much to the trouble, and grievance of Our loving Subiects, by digging vp of their dwelling houses, Dounehouses, and other out-houses, and also to their great charge, by removing of their Liquors, Tubbes, and other Instruments, by carriages from place to place; Of which, although many complaints haue beeene made, and often-renewed, and all fit courses haue been taken by Us and Our Priuie Counsell, to ease Our Subiects of this trouble and charge, yet in a case of such inciutale necessitie, the same cannot yet be totally taken awaie.

And whereas lathence the first making of Saltpeter within this Realme, vntill this present, notwithstanding all the trouble and charge aforesayd, yet the Undertakers of the layd Workes, could never heretofore furnish this Realme, with a third part of the Saltpeter requisite for the seruice of Our owne Dominions, especially in times of warre, and greatest necessity thereof, But Wee, and Our Predecessors and Subiects, haue beeene forced for their necessary vse, to seekke supplies thereof from forraime parts, which hath the rather happened, for that many to a uoyd the trouble of digging vp their floores, haue purposely preuented the growth thereof, and divers of the Saltpeter men, haue corruptly made a practise, to take Composition money of diuers, to forbeare digging, or to execute their Commissions, which their partiaall course of proce-



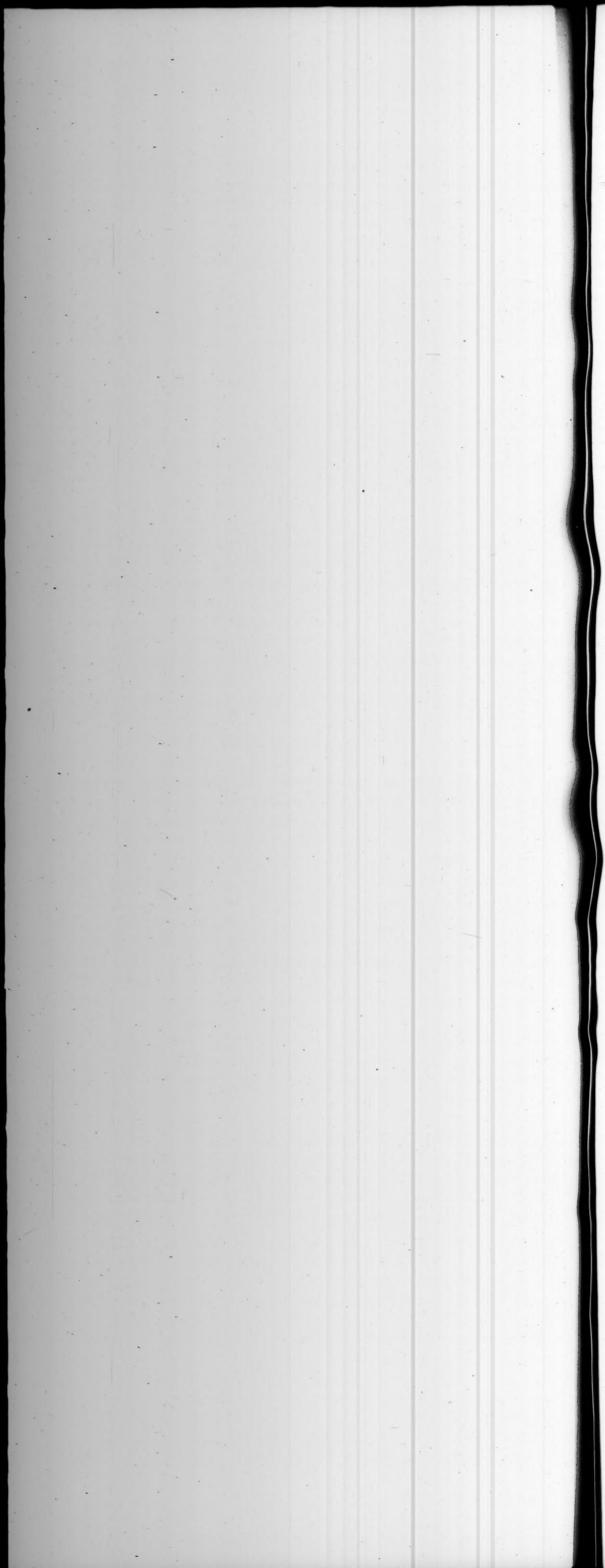
ding, hath been very offensive to many of Our good Subjects, and if now the Saltpeter men should continue in their accustomed course of working, & should strive to provide so great quantitie of Saltpeter within these our Realmes, for a few yeeres together, as the necessarie of the present times require, they woul'd so impoerish the earth, fit for that purpose, that within a short time, We should bee utterly destitute of that incalculable Treasure, there being no artificiall meanes vsed for the enriching of the Earth to this vse, the Earth of it selfe, by that which casually happeneth, not being able to engender that matter whereof Saltpeter can be extracted in many yeeres.

And whereas for the redresse of these many inconueniences and grieuances, Sir John Brooke knight, and Thomas Russell Esquire, haue humbly offered their seruice vnto vs, and did undertake, both to vs, and to the Lords Spirituall and Temporall, assembled in the late meeting in Parliament, by their industry and charge, to make yearely such quantities of Saltpeter, and of such good condition, as should be sufficient both for Our owne and Our Subjects vses, with supply also of Our forreine neighbours in amity with vs, if occasion should so require, and that without digging any of Our Subjects houses, or out houses of any kinde, or charging them at all with carriages, as heretofore they haue beeene, and yet are charged, to be effected and brought to passe by a new inuention of them, the said Sir John Brooke and Thomas Russell, And of their abilities to performe the same, they then gaue both to Our selfe and to the said Lords Spirituall and Temporall good probability, and haue sithence made sufficient and demonstratiue prooofe thereof.

And Wee haue beeene graciously pleased by Our Letters Patents vnder the great Seale of England, bearing date the sixe and twentieth day of Aprill last past, (in compensation of their great paines and expence therein, and for encouragement of them, and all others to bend their studiess to so profitable and publicke workes, to the defence and benefit of vs and Our Subjects) to grant to them, the said Sir John Brooke and Thomas Russell, the sole Privalidge of making Saltpeter, according to their said new Inuention, for diuers yeeres yet to come, with addition of such Privalidges and ayde on Our behalfe, as the merit of so worthy an undertaking justly challengeth at Our hands, especially for their supply of such Requisites, as shall bee therin necessary without charge to Our Subjects.

And now by their humble Petition they haue required none other assistance from vs, but that they might by Our Royall authority be prouided of sufficient quantitie of Urine, which will bee vsefull for them to the extracting & making of Saltpeter, They the said Sir John Brooke and Thomas Russell, & their assignes, at their charges carrying away the said Urine, at due and conuenient times, from the severall places where the same shall be saued for their vse, vnto the place, or places where they shall haue occasion to vse the same, which their humble Suite, Wee haing taken into Our serious and princely consideration, haue thought fit, in a case of so great consequence, and for the redēming of so great and continuall a charge and trouble, to Our louing Subjects to grant the same.

And therefore wee doe hereby publish and declare Our Royall pleasure to bee, and wee doe strictly charge and command all and euery of Our Subjects, inhabiting within Our Cities of London and Westminster, and the Suburbes of either of them, with the Borough of Southwarke and all other places of the said Cities, and suburbs, aswell within liberties as without (neare vnto whiche, the said Sir John Brooke and Thomas Russell, haue already erected a Worke for the making of Saltpeter,) and also all other Our louing Subjects inhabiting within all and euery other Cities, Townes, and Villages, within this Our Realme of England, That they and e-



very of them, from and after notice givuen unto them severally and respectiuely, or left for them at their dwelling houses, shall carefullly and constantly keepe and preserue, in some conuenient vessells, or receptacles fit for that purpose, All the Urine of man during the whole yeere, and all the Stale of Beastes, which they can saue, and gather together, whilst their Beastes are in their stables or stalles; And that they be carefull to vse the best meanes they may, for the sauing, gathering together, and preseruing of the said Urine and Stale, Without any mixture of Water, or other things to bee put thereto; Which Our Commandement and Royall pleasure, being so easie to be obserued, and sonecessary for the publique seruice of Us, and Our people, We expect and straitly charge, Shall be duely and carefullly obserued and performed; And if any person shall be remisse or negligent in the due obseruance hereof, We shall esteeme of all such as persons contemptuous and ill affected both to Our Person and State, and are resolued to procede to the punishment of every such offender, with that severitie whiche by the Lawes of this Realme, or by Our prerogatiue Royall Wee may.

Neverthelesse, Our will and pleasure is, That no person shall incurre any contempt concerning the premisses, vntesse notice be first givuen, or left vnto or for him or her, as aforesaid, by the Constable or Headborough of that parish or place where such person dwelleth or inhabiteh, and vntesse the said Sir John Brooke, & Thomas Russell, or their assignes, do once in every foure & twenty houres in the Summer time, (that is to say) from the first of April, vntill the first day of October, and once in every eight and fourtie houres in the winter time, (that is to say) from the first of October, vntill the first of Aprill in every yeere, carie away the same from those places where the same shall bee so preserued for them: And therefore Wee doe hereby require and command all Constables and Headboroughs, That they and euery of them, vpon request made to them or any of them by the sayd, Sir John Brooke and Thomas Russell, or their assignes, be aiding, assisting, and diligent in the execution of Our pleasure herein before declared, as they and euery of them will answere the contrary at their perils.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the second day of Januarie, in the second yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

M.DC.XXVI.